# Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ended May 2024

July 3, 2024 ASKUL Corporation

#### [Disclaimer]

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#### [Segment]

- ASKUL is reporting its operating performances by dividing its organization into three segments: E-commerce Business, Logistics Business, and Other. E-commerce Business refers to sales of OA and PC supplies, stationery, living supplies, furniture, foods and drinks, alcoholic beverages, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, etc. Logistics Business refers to logistics and small-cargo transportation service to companies.
- ✓ The disclosure segment have changed effective from the fiscal year ending May 20, 2025. Please refer to the slide 14 for details.

### [Fiscal Year]

Fiscal year runs from May 21 of each year to May 20 of the following year, a month runs from 21st of each month to 20th of the following month.

### [Other]

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 $\checkmark$  Achieved revised plan for both net sales and profit at each stage

✓ B-to-B business accomplished the most important goal of "changing the trajectory of profit growth curve"

✓ LOHACO to remain profitable for the full year, and sales for Q4 period started positive YoY growth

# FY5/2025: Aiming to achieve continuous record-high net sales and operating profit by absorbing the increase in fixed cost

✓ The ASKUL business increases the growth rate by improving the accuracy of each measure through data-driven approaches.

✓ The migration plan for the new ASKUL website has been revised to prioritize customer support after the transition.

The installation of the material handling system for the ASKUL Kanto DC, which will be the pillar of the logistics structural reform, has started (ASKUL Kanto DC is scheduled to start operation at the beginning of the fiscal year ending May 20, 2026).

# New Medium-Term Management Plan: Planning to formulate and announce during the fiscal year ending May 20, 2025

✓ The goal of "Transformation from Office Supplies Mail-Order Company" remains unchanged.

- ✓ With the aim of becoming an infrastructure company that supports all workplaces and lifestyles, we will promote entry into areas other than product sales.
- ✓ To achieve discontinuous growth, we will secure up to 100 billion yen for growth investment and strengthen M&A activities.

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## FY5/2024 Earnings Results



## Marked record-highs for both net sales and profit at each stage

	FY5/202	23	FY5/2024								
(¥million)	Actual	% of net sales	Plan	Actual	% of net sales %	% of plan %	YoY change %				
Net Sales	446,713	100.0	470,000	471,682	100.0	+0.4	+5.6				
Gross Profit	107,040	24.0	119,380	117,502	24.9	-1.6	+9.8				
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	92,420	20.7	102,880	100,549	21.3	-2.3	+8.8				
Operating Profit	14,620	3.3	16,500	16,953	3.6	+2.7	+16.0				
Ordinary Profit	14,448	3.2	16,200	16,677	3.5	+2.9	+15.4				
Profit Attributable to Owners of Parent	9,787	2.2	18,000	19,139	4.1	+6.3	+95.6				

Note: The net profit for the fiscal year ended May 2024 includes extraordinary income from the ALP Metropolitan fire-related lawsuit.

## **Consolidated Earnings Results and Forecasts**

FY5/2023

FY5/2024



	Net Sales					Operating Profit						
	FY5/2024 Result		YoY 105.6%		FY5/2024 Result			YoY 116.0%				
	Net sales c	ontinue to r	each record	d-highs	Acl	nieved dou	ıble-digit pr	ofit growth a	as planned			
(¥billion)					(¥billion)							
500	I			471.6	20				16.9			
460		100 E	446.7		15	13.9	14.3	14.6	10.9			
420	422.1	428.5										
380					10							
340					5							
340 300					0							

FY5/2021

FY5/2022

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FY5/2022

FY5/2021

FY5/2024

FY5/2023

## FY5/2024 Earnings Results [By Business]



			FY5/2023		F١	(5/2024		
(¥billi	ion	)	Actual	Plan	Actual	% of plan %	YoY change	YoY change %
		B-to-B Business	373.8	404.9	409.1	+1.0	35.2	+9.4
		LOHACO	46.1	37.6	36.1	-3.8	(10.0)	-21.7
Net Sales		B-to-C business (including charm)	63.2	55.3	53.2	-3.8	(10.0)	-15.8
Net S		E-commerce Business	437.1	460.3	462.3	+0.4	25.2	+5.8
		Logistics Business and Other	9.5	9.6	9.3	-4.0	(0.2)	-3.0
		Consolidated Total	446.7	470.0	471.6	+0.4	24.9	+5.6
		B-to-B Business	14.7	16.2	17.3	+6.7	2.5	+17.5
		LOHACO	0	0	0.2	+265.7	0.1	+296.5
Profit		B-to-C business (including charm)	0.3	0.2	0.2	+23.8	(0)	-20.5
ating		Performance-linked Bonuses (including provision), etc.	(0.1)	0	(0.5)	-	(0.3)	-
Operating		E-commerce Business	14.9	16.4	17.0	+3.7	2.1	+14.4
		Logistics Business and Other	(0.3)	0	(0.1)	-	0.1	-
		Consolidated Total	14.6	16.5	16.9	+2.7	2.3	+16.0

## FY5/2024 Factors for Increase / Decrease in Operating Profit



-2,320 million

-2,170 million

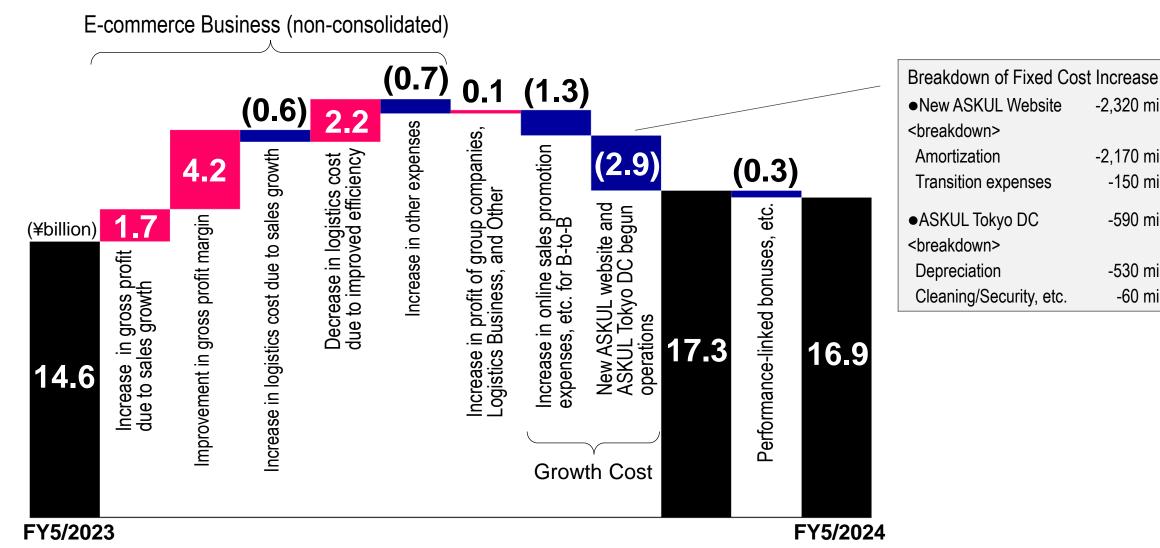
-150 million

-590 million

-530 million

-60 million

Achieved profit increase by improving gross profit margin and logistics operation efficiency



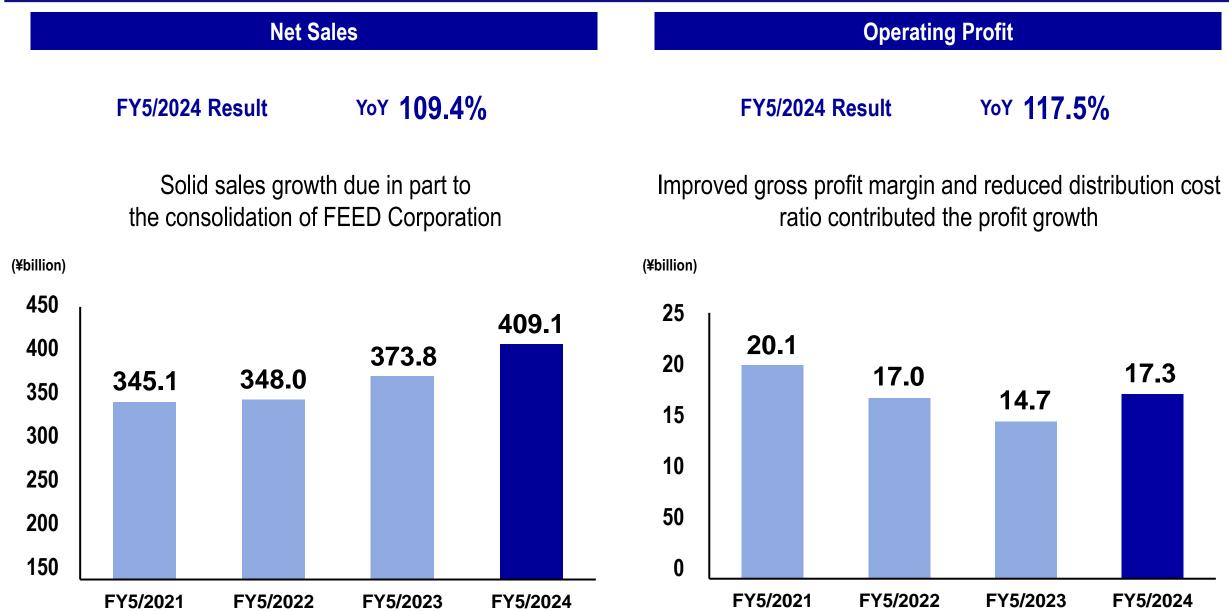
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Note: Figures in the graph are rounded down to the nearest 100 million yen.

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## **B-to-B Business Earnings Results**

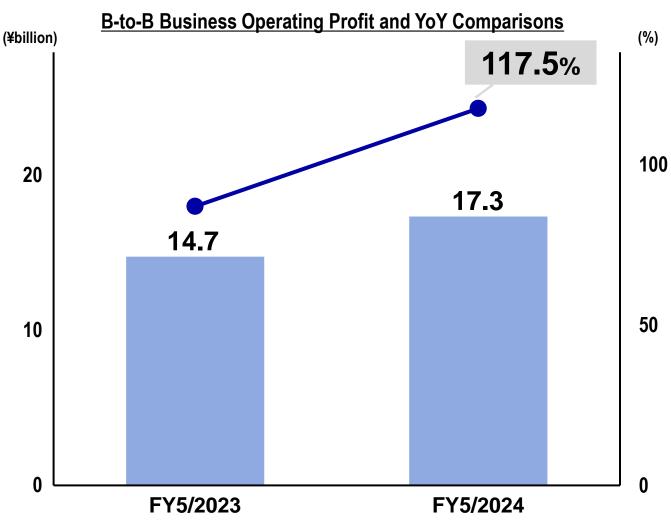




## **B-to-B Trend of Operating Profit by Quarter**



Accomplished "changing the trajectory of profit growth curve," the most important goal of FY5/2024



# Factors behind the Gross profit margin improvement

- $\checkmark$  Flexible price revisions
- ✓ Recovered foreign exchange position of main products
  - $\checkmark\,$  Contribution of group companies' earnings

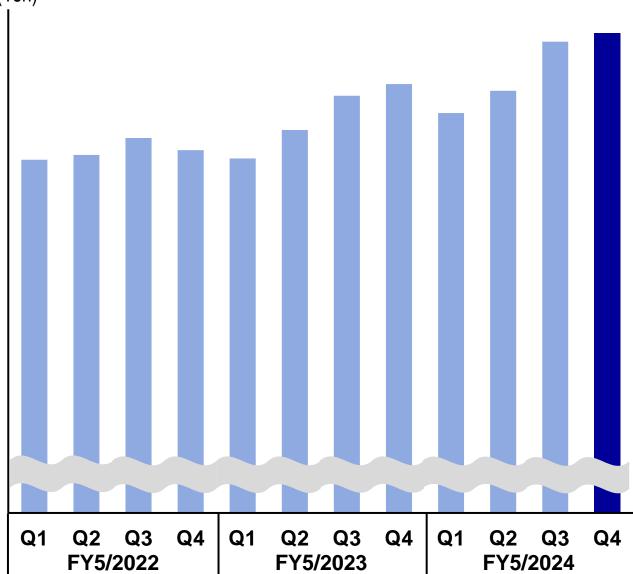
# Factors behind the Variable cost ratio improvement

- $\checkmark\,$  Continued increase in unit sales price per box
- ✓ Improved warehouse productivity at ASKUL Tokyo DC
- Decrease in multiple package deliveries due to optimizing inventory placement

## **B-to-B Unit Sales Price per Box**



(Yen)



# FY5/2024 Q4 YoY change: Up 6.9%

500-million-yen worth of delivery cost reduction in Q4 period

Continued improvement expected

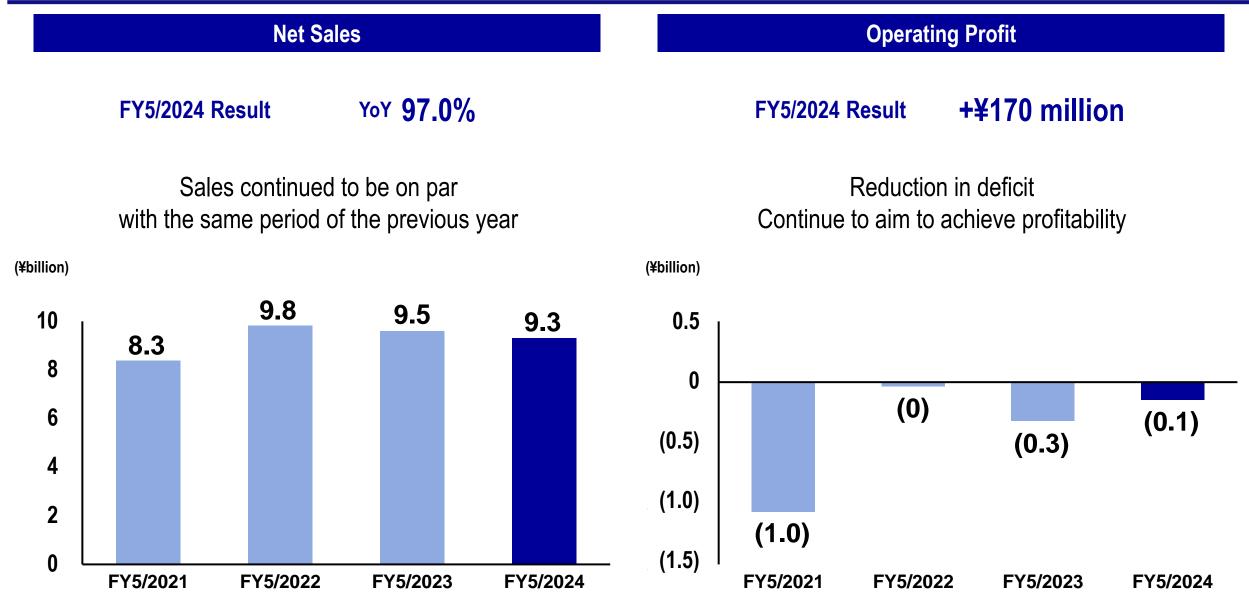
## **B-to-C Business Earnings Results**



		Net Sale	es		Operating Profit							
	FY5/2024 Result YoY 84.2%					FY5/2024 R	esult	YoY <b>79.5%</b>				
(¥billion)	-		enue for the fu owth in the Q4	•	Març (¥billion)	ginal profit rat	io improved,	and profitabili	ty maintained			
80	68.5	70.6			0			0.3	0.2			
60	00.0		63.2	53.2	(1.0)							
40					(2.0)							
20					(3.0) (4.0)		(2.4)					
0	FY5/2021	FY5/2022	FY5/2023	FY5/2024	(5.0)	<b>(4.1)</b> FY5/2021	FY5/2022	FY5/2023	FY5/2024			

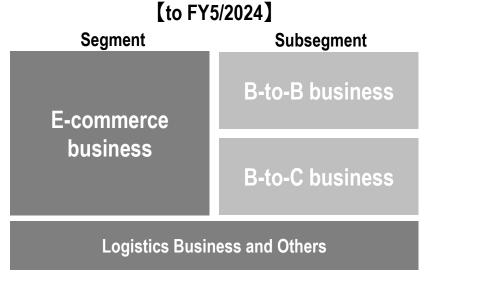
## **Logistics Business and Others Earnings Results and Forecasts**





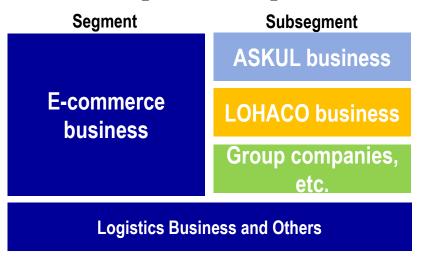
# **Revision of Business Segment Disclosures**

- With the acceleration of BC integration of products and logistics and the unification of business structures, segment disclosure will be revised to better reflect the actual management situation
- ✓ Emphasizing overall profit growth, LOHACO aims for healthy growth as a major sales channel in the e-commerce business.



Both net sales and operating income are disclosed down to sub-segments

Main services/businesses/major subsidiaries and affiliates for new segment



[from FY5/2025]

Net sales are disclosed down to sub-segments Operating income is disclosed down to segments

ASKUL business: ASKUL, SOLOEL ARENA, SOLOEL, New ASKUL Website LOHACO business: LOHACO Group companies, etc.: AlphaPurchase Co., Ltd., BUSINESSMART CORPORATION, FEED Corporation, charm Co., Ltd. \*including consolidated eliminations Logistics Business and Others: ASKUL LOGIST Corporation (sales to customers outside of the Group), TSUMAGOI MEISUI CORPORATION



## FY5/2025 Earnings Forecasts



## Aiming for record-high net sales and operating profit

	FY5/202	24	FY5/2025						
(¥million)	Actual	% of net sales	Plan	% of net sales %	YoY change %				
Net Sales	471,682	100.0	500,000	100.0	+6.0				
Gross Profit	117,502	24.9	126,700	25.3	+7.8				
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	100,549	21.3	108,700	21.7	+8.1				
Operating Profit	16,953	3.6	18,000	3.6	+6.2				
Ordinary Profit	16,677	3.5	17,700	3.5	+6.1				
Profit Attributable to Owners of Parent	19,139	4.1	11,200	2.2	-41.5				

Note: The net profit for the fiscal year ended May 2024 includes extraordinary income from the ALP Metropolitan fire-related lawsuit.

## FY5/2025 Earnings Forecasts (by new segment) [By Business] Consolidated

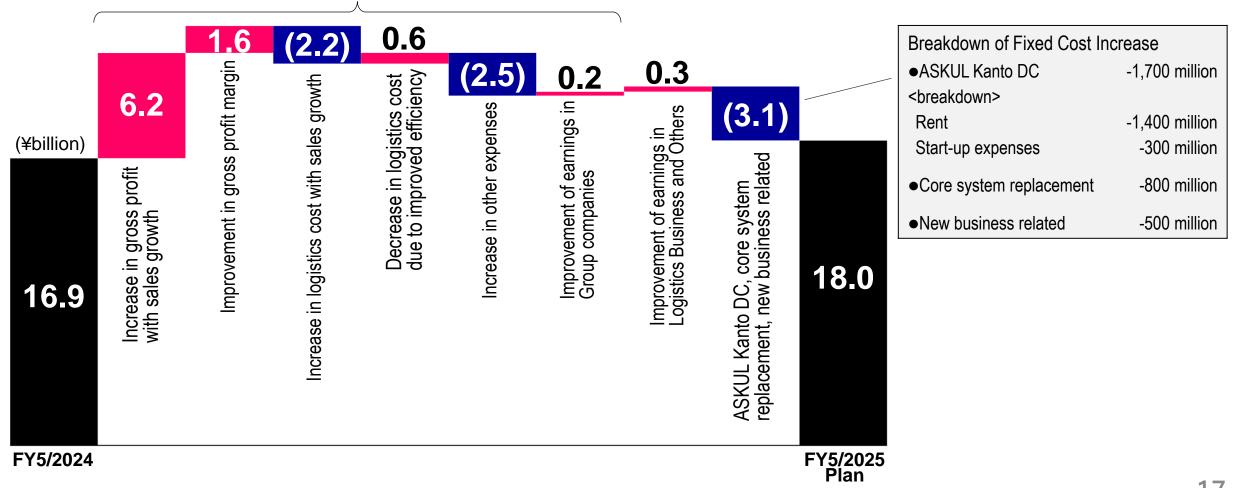
		FY5/2024		FY5/2025	
(¥billio	on)	Actual	Plan	YoY change	YoY change %
	ASKUL Business	353.3	374.9	21.5	+6.1
	LOHACO Business	36.1	37.8	1.7	+4.8
Net Sales	Group Companies, etc	72.8	77.6	4.7	+6.5
Net 9	E-commerce Business	462.3	490.4	28.0	+6.1
	Logistics Business and Other	9.3	9.5	0.2	+2.7
	Consolidated Total	471.6	500.0	28.3	+6.0
ofit	Performance-linked Bonuses (including provision), etc.	(0.5)	-	0.5	-
ng Pr	E-commerce Business	17.0	17.8	0.7	+4.3
Operating Profit	Logistics Business and Other	(0.1)	0.1	0.3	-
dO	Consolidated Total	16.9	18.0	1.0	+6.2

## FY5/2025 Operating Profit Forecasts

Consolidated

Expect to increase profit by absorbing fixed cost increase through sales growth and improvement in gross profit margin

E-commerce Business

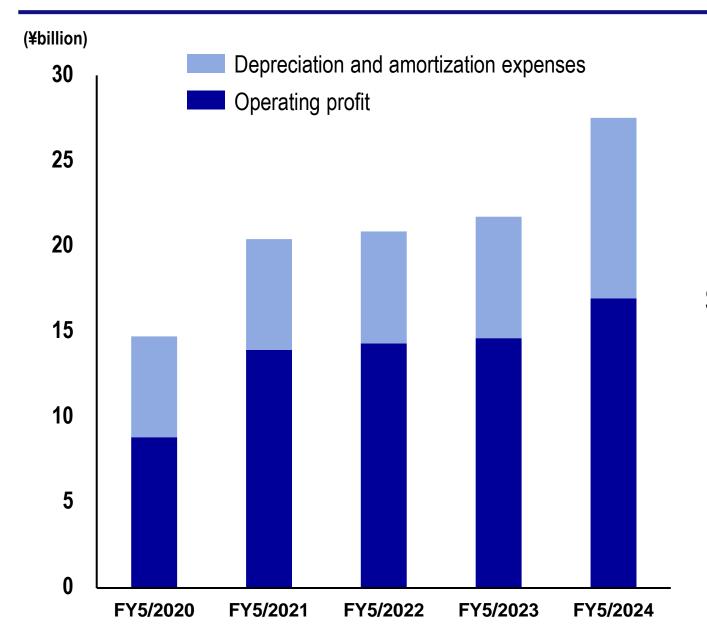


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Note: Figures in the graph are rounded down to the nearest 100 million yen.  $\perp I$ 

# **Trend of EBITDA**





# EBITDA to increase significantly ahead of strong earnings growth

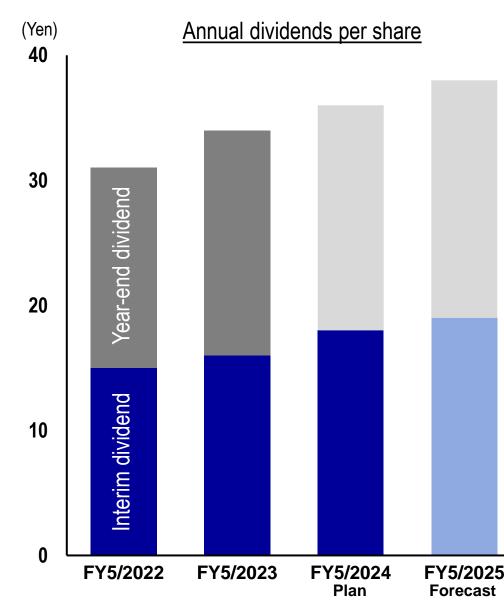
## Trend of ROE





## **Shareholder Return**





## <u>FY5/24</u>

- Annual dividend per share: ¥36 (Interim dividend: ¥18 and Year-end dividend: ¥18)
   Annual dividend increase of ¥2
- ✓ Share buy back in progress to achieve a total return ratio of 45%

## <u>FY5/25</u>

- Annual dividend per share: ¥38

   (Interim dividend: ¥18 and Year-end dividend: ¥18)
   Plan to increase dividend by ¥2 for the full year
- ✓ Flexibly consider shareholder returns, including share buybacks, in accordance with the shareholder return policy

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# Medium-Term Management Plan: Evaluation of Progress <br/> <Management Indicators>



Although the numerical targets were not achieved, setting high goals accelerated growth Both net sales and operating profit reached record highs

_(¥billion)	FY5/2021 results	FY5/2025 forecast	FY5/2021→FY5/2025 outlook	FY5/2025 Medium-Term Management Plan Target
Net sales	422.1	500.0	+77.9	550.0
Operating profit	13.9	18.0	+4.1	27.5
Operating profit ratio	3.3%	3.6%	+0.3pt	5.0%

Factors for not achieving the targets

Increase in amortization expenses due to increased investment for the new ASKUL website and failure to achieve the planned effects of the opening of the SOLOEL ARENA website.

- ✓ Low utilization rates of newly introduced products as a result of overemphasis on product expansion (number of items).
- ✓ Failure to meet LOHACO's sales plan due to prioritizing profitability.
- ✓ Increase in fixed costs due to the launch of the ASKUL Kanto DC.

# Medium-Term Management Plan: Evaluation of Progress <br/><key Strategies>



Key Strategies	Results	Evalua tion	Next Action
Strategic Areas and Expansion of Product Lineups	<ul> <li>Expansion of product lineup as planned</li> <li>Increase in sales ratio of original products</li> </ul>	$\bigtriangleup$	<ul> <li>Improvement in the utilization rate of newly introduced products</li> <li>Digital transformation of merchandising</li> <li>Further differentiation of original products</li> </ul>
Establishment of the Most Powerful B-to-B EC Website	<ul> <li>The opening of SOLOEL ARENA website</li> <li>Start of operation of the new ASKUL website</li> </ul>	$\triangle$	<ul> <li>Steady progress in customer transition</li> <li>Promotion of buy-around by transitioned customers</li> </ul>
Synergies with Z Holdings (now LY Corporation)	<ul> <li>Achieved profitability for LOHACO in FY5/2023</li> <li>Support from technology personnel for the operation of the new ASKUL website</li> </ul>	$\bigcirc$	Further collaboration and evolution in the fields of marketing and digital transformation
Reform Platforms	<ul> <li>Enhancement of shipping capability and storage capacity through the introduction of the latest equipment</li> <li>Improvement of delivery efficiency due to the effects of measures</li> <li>Stable operation of ASKUL Tokyo DC</li> </ul>	0	<ul> <li>Reliable launch of ASKUL Kanto DC</li> <li>Realization of east-west mother centers</li> </ul>
Establishment of New Services	<ul> <li>Launch of advertising business in B-to-B business</li> <li>Start of the SaaS business 'Bizraku' to support DX for SMEs</li> </ul>	$\bigcirc$	<ul> <li>Scaling up the advertising business</li> <li>Expansion of Bizraku</li> <li>Further expansion into new business areas 23</li> </ul>

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# Shift in Financial Strategy Toward Discontinuous Growth



## **Financial Strategy Policy**

The Group will continue to maintain and improve a sound financial structure\* to support further growth investments (including discontinuous growth investments such as M&A), while at the same time enhancing shareholder returns and improving capital efficiency.

### The image of capital allocation from FY5/2025 to FY5/2028

Cash inflow	Cash outflow									
	Shareholder returns Regular investments Growth	investments								
Operating cash flow		n investment Iding M&A)								
Financing (Liabilities)	Investment in equipment and software									
Available funds	Dividends and share buybacks									

\*Click here for details of the guidelines for financial discipline that supports maintenance and improvement of a sound financial structure. 25

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#### Growth Strategies of Medium-Term Management Plan Consolidated ASKUL

Achieve double-digit growth in the final year through synergistic effects of measures

Convright © ASKUL Corporation All F	FY5/202 Rights Reserved	22	FY5/2023	FY5/2024	FY5/2025	27
Expansion of Product Assortments	Number of Products Products in Stock Original Products	11.79 million 129,000 8,700	ASKUL Tokyo 12.47 million 166,000 9,600	DC begins operations 14.08 million 258,000 11,010		
Enriching product information		●Expans	sion of product information by	DX		
New ASKUL Website Pre- release of Some Function			●Expand buying-around by	opening of SOLOEL ARENA t	o public	
Enhancing navigation from search engines			Strengthen online sales pro	omotion such as listing ads		
Increase Awareness of handling products for strategic industries			<ul> <li>Start of rebranding provide the start of the</li></ul>	ogram	mass advertising	
New Askul Website Evolution of UI/UX				New ASKUL Website goes nhancement of ASKUL site (for the state)		JX

## ASKUL Expansion of Product Assortments (Number of Products, Products In-Stock)

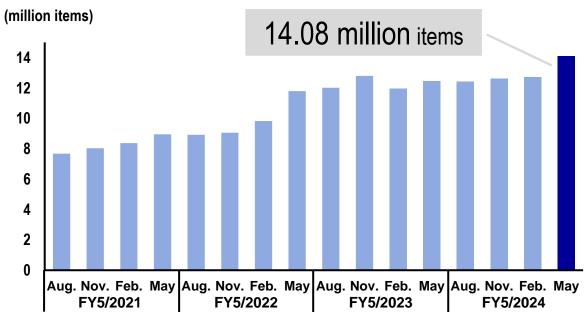


Products Handled

✓ Q4 period: increased 1,349,000 items over 890,000 new items introduced

Resumed sales of products that had been suspended due to supply disruptions, etc.

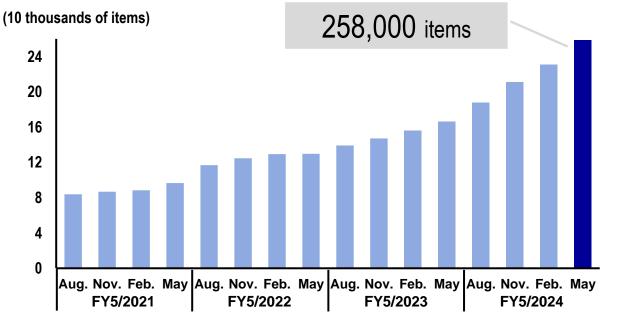
Going forward, focus on improving utilization rates of newly introduced products



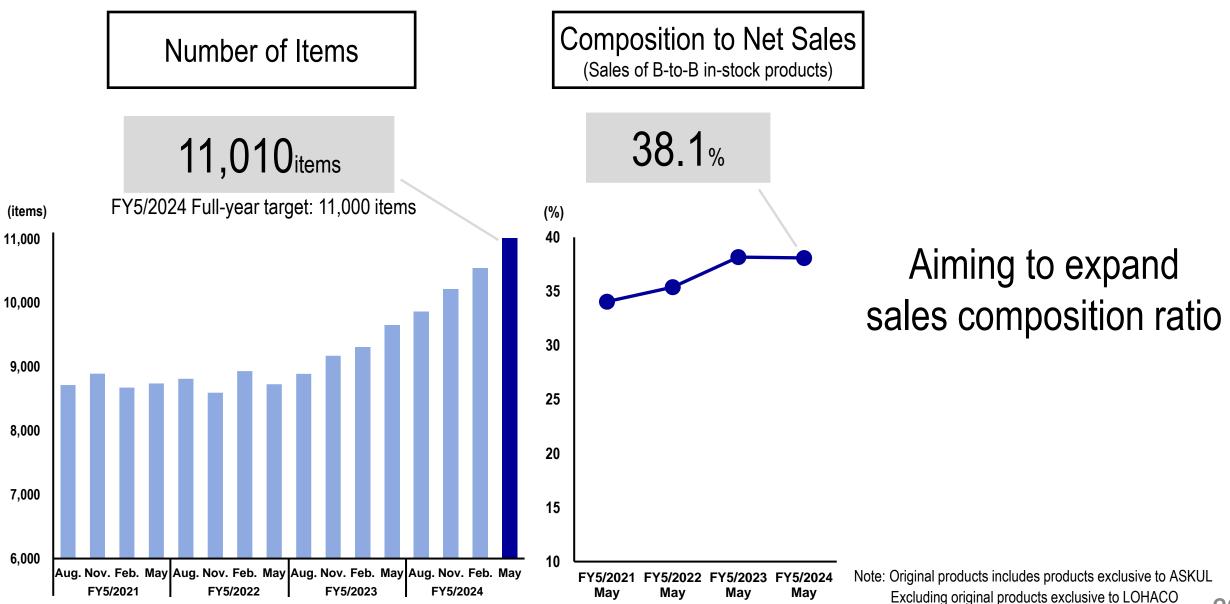
In-Stock Products

✓ Q4 period: increased 27,000 items increased in almost all categories

Achieved full-year target of 240,000 items Aiming for further expansion of products available for nextday delivery



## ASKUL Expansion of Product Assortments (ASKUL Original Products\*1)



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## ASKUL Quarterly Net Sales by Item Category



## The impact of the reactionary decline in the Medical category has mostly run its course by Q4

	FY5/2	2021	FY5/	2022	FY5/2	2023							FY5/2	024							
	Full-	/ear	Full-	year	Full-	year	Q	Q1 Q2 Q3			)3		Q	4			Full-	/ear			
		Composition ratio		Composition ratio		Composition ratio		Composition ratio		Composition ratio		Composition ratio		Composition ratio	YoY change	YoY change		Composition ratio	YoY change	YoY change	
(¥billion)		%		%		%		%		%		%		%	g-	%		%	g-	%	
OA & PC	94.1	29.8	94.0	29.6	98.4	29.2	24.1	28.6	26.2	29.3	26.2	29.9	26.4	29.1	0.7	+2.8	103.2	29.2	4.7	+4.9	
Stationery	41.4	13.1	40.8	12.9	42.1	12.5	9.8	11.7	10.9	12.2	11.2	12.8	13.1	14.5	1.3	+11.5	45.3	12.8	3.2	+7.7	
Living Supplies	80.2	25.4	86.6	27.3	99.6	29.6	27.6	32.7	27.6	30.8	25.9	29.5	26.0	28.6	1.0	+4.3	107.3	30.4	7.6	+7.7	
Furniture	22.0	7.0	21.6	6.8	19.9	5.9	4.9	5.9	5.1	5.8	5.2	5.9	6.6	7.3	0.4	+7.7	22.0	6.2	2.0	+10.5	
MRO	35.8	11.4	37.4	11.8	41.1	12.2	10.3	12.2	11.1	12.4	10.9	12.4	10.9	12.0	0.6	+6.5	43.3	12.3	2.1	+5.3	
Medical	34.2	10.9	29.5	9.3	28.3	8.4	5.6	6.7	6.1	6.8	6.0	6.9	5.6	6.2	(0.1)	-2.2	23.5	6.7	(4.7)	-16.9	
Others	7.3	2.3	7.0	2.2	7.1	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.0	2.2	0.2	+11.4	8.5	2.4	1.4	+19.8	
Total	315.2	100.0	317.2	100.0	336.7	100.0	84.4	100.0	89.8	100.0	88.0	100.0	90.9	100.0	4.3	+5.1	353.3	100.0	16.5	+4.9	

Notes: 1. Some products in the Living Supplies category have been reclassified to the Furniture category from the beginning of the fiscal year ended May 2024
2. From February of the fiscal year ended May 2024, due to changes in the agent system, there has been a positive impact on the Stationery and Other categories, but there are also categories with negative impacts. Therefore, the overall impact on B-to-B sales revenue is minimal.

## ASKUL FY5/2025 Measures for Sales Growth



# Increases the growth rate by improving the accuracy of each measure through data-driven approaches

Strengthening Product Capability

#### Enhancing Product Assortment and Original Products

- Marketing lab has also been launched in the the ASKUL business. Collaborating with suppliers to enhance product assortment through data utilization.
- Strengthening original products by establishing a dedicated product development department.

Contributing to sales growth from FY5/2026 and beyond

#### Merchandising DX

- Improving the speed of product adoption and pricing through datadriven decision-making.
- Conducting analysis, development, and testing for the implementation of measures in FY5/2025
   \*Click here for details about Merchandising DX

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Enhancing User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX)

#### Reviewing Customer Acquisition Methods and Measures to Improve Retention Rate

 Strengthening customer acquisition methods targeting customers who are likely become loyal customers through data utilization and implementing measures to retain customers after registration.

### $\times$

#### Improving Sales Promotion Accuracy

 Automating site exposure of enhanced product assortments and bargain items and optimizing the recommendation engine to propose desired products to customers.

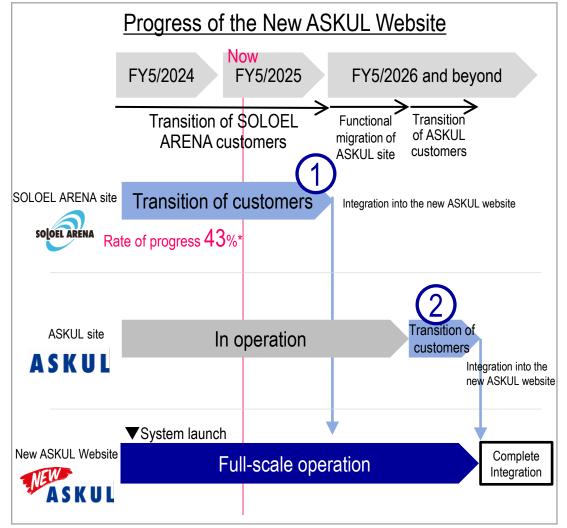
#### Evolving into an Easy-to-Navigate Site

 Enhancing the site's ease of use and purchasing experience through search algorithm optimization and functional improvements based on customer feedback.

## ASKUL Progress of the New ASKUL Website



The migration plan for the new ASKUL website has been revised to prioritize customer support after the transition.



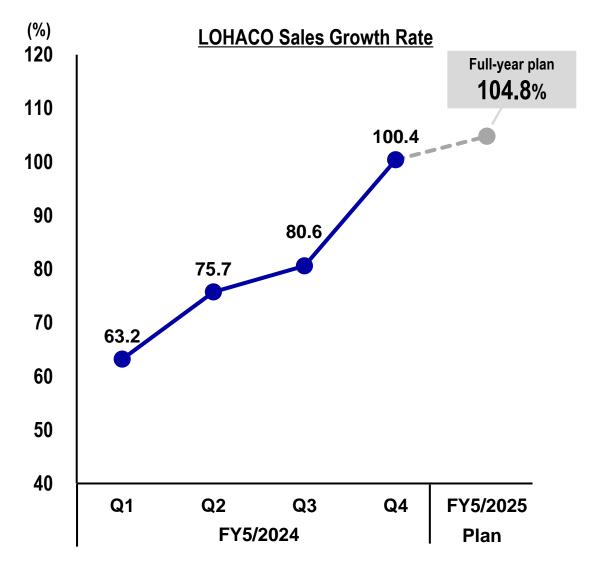
### Status of Customer Transition for SOLOEL ARENA (Left Chart 1)

- ✓ Progress as of the end of the FY5/2024: Plan 70% ⇒ Actual 43%\*
- Considering the increase in customer inquiries due to the increase in transition volume, the process is being carried out cautiously.
- ✓ The transition is scheduled to be completed during FY5/2025

Status of ASKUL Customer Transition and Site Integration (Left Chart 2)

✓ Will proceed sequentially once the transition of SOLOEL ARENA customers is complete.

Continue LOHACO's regrowth momentum, aiming for approx. 5% growth



# Number of customers to be on a growth trend in FY5/2025

Non

Consolida

### 1. Enhancement of Product Lineup

 Expand the product lineup not only for consumables but also for household goods and daily necessities categories and strengthen original products.

## 2. Improvement and Evolution of UI and UX

✓ Enhance personalization, set more affordable prices and purchase units, improve packaging and delivery quality, and improve app performance, etc.

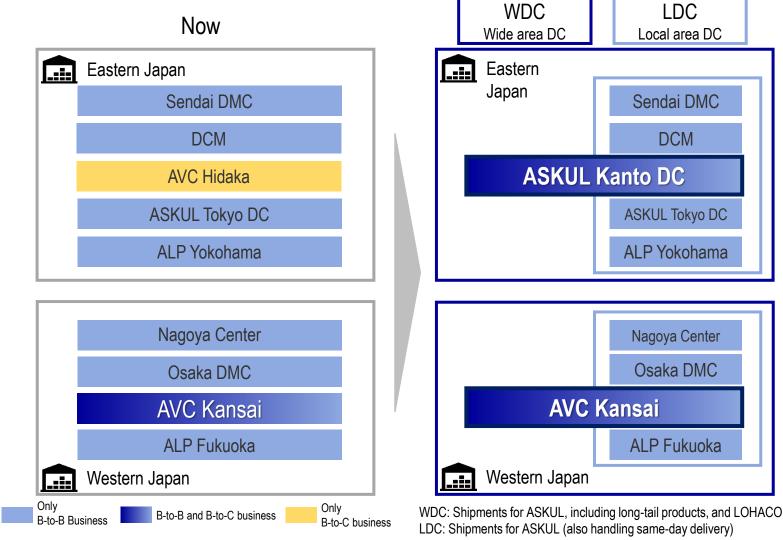
## 3. <u>Collaboration in Sale Promotion with LYC</u>

 $\checkmark\,$  Strengthen sales promotions for LYP premium members.

# Medium-Term Distribution Center Strategy: WDC/LDC Concept



Transitioning to a base strategy that enables same-day delivery for products ordered with high-frequency (LDC) and next-day delivery for long-tail products (WDC).



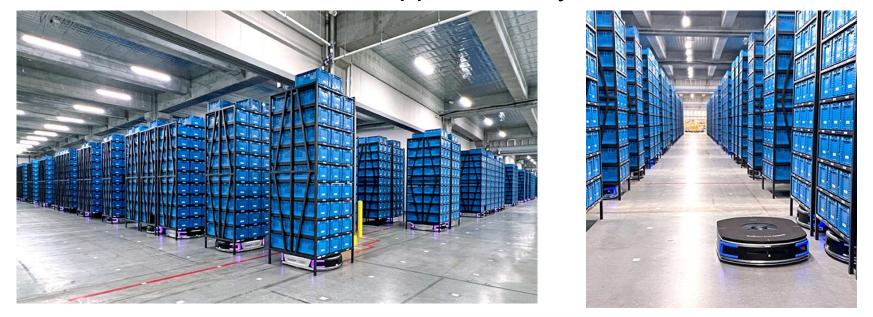
- Increase unit sales price per box by delivering products ordered with highfrequency and long-tail products together
- Improving logistics quality and achieving structural low-cost operations through the integration of BC
- By establishing two mother centers (WDCs) in the east and west, transportation and delivery distances are shortened, improving delivery efficiency

# **AVC Kansai Facility Expansion**



35

Completed the implementation of the new GTP<sup>\*1</sup> solution to expand long-tail products at AVC Kansai, a WDC in the western Japan area. To achieve an increase of approximately 190,000<sup>\*2</sup> stock items



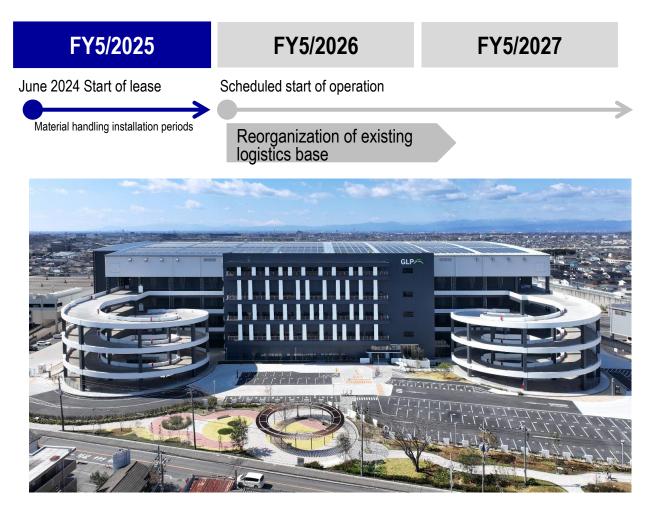
# A hybrid logistics center that accommodates both fast-moving head products and long-tail products is now complete.

Notes: 1. GTP = Goods To Person. A robot that transports goods directly to the locations where workers are responsible for picking 2. Planned value according to the design

# **ASKUL Kanto DC**



The installation of the material handling system has been started for the start of operation at the beginning of the fiscal year ending May 2026



### FY5/2025

 ✓ Incurrence of ¥1.4 billion in vacant rent and approximately ¥300 million in one-time start-up costs

### FY5/2026

- ✓ Depreciation of ¥1.7 billion per year begins
- Variable cost reduction effects due to the reorganization of existing centers and start of ASKUL Kanto DC operations

## <u>FY5/2027</u>

 Maximization of variable cost reduction effects due to a decrease in rent costs from the completion of base reorganization and improved delivery efficiency from base consolidation.

- I Earnings results for the Fiscal Year Ended May 20, 2024 and Earnings Forecast for the Fiscal Year Ending May 20, 2025
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- **IV Progress of Business**
- **V** Topics (ESG and DX)
- VI Action to Implement Management that is Conscious of Capital Cost and Stock Price
- VII Appendix

April 2024

Matakul 8L Wastebasket Made From Used Clear Plastic Folders is Now Available for Sale

- ✓ Matakul is an original series born from the "Resource-Recycling Platform" initiative, which recycles collected resources into new products.
- ✓ After receiving used clear plastic folders from businesses, they are sorted, recycled, and manufactured into new products.

### May 2024

Initiating the "Tsumagoi Green Project" for Forest Maintenance in Tsumagoi Village

- Launched as part of forest conservation activities in Tsumagoi Village based on the "ASKUL, TSUMAGOI MEISUI, Tsumagoi Village Forest Maintenance Partnership Agreement" signed in August 2023.
- Conducted the first tree planting in the "ASKUL-TSUMAGOI MEISUI Forest" (Tsumagoi Village, Kambara).









April 2024

## Launching the "ASKUL EC Marketing Lab" by Opening up B-to-B Big Data

- Starting in April 2024, in addition to B-to-C, B-to-B big data will also be made available to EC Marketing Lab participating companies.
- Through the activities of the laboratory, we aim to provide a data utilization platform that will connect customers and suppliers and work together to create sustainable value, with the aim of achieving a "sustainable hub".

### May 2024

## Selected for DX Stock 2024 for Two Consecutive Years

Selected for its achievements in promoting the use of AI and robotics for DX across the entire value chain, as well as for its efforts to promote DX not only within its own company but also across the value chain and among partner companies.

\*DX Stocks are selected from companies listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in each industry category that have established internal mechanisms for promoting DX that led to increased corporate value and have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the use of digital technology.

DX銘柄2024

**Digital Transformation** 

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# VII Appendix

## Action to Implement Management that is Conscious of Capital Cost and Stock Price



## 1. Analysis and Evaluation of The Current Situation

Although Return on Equity (ROE) declined during the initial phase of the LOHACO business due to expanding losses, it has since steadily improved through enhanced management efficiency and has remained around 15% in recent years. Price-to-Book Ratio (P/B Ratio) has remained around 3 times.

## 2. Future Initiatives

- In order to continue to maintain and improve a sound financial structure to support further growth investments such as M&A, while at the same time enhancing shareholder returns and improving capital efficiency, guidelines for financial discipline are set.
- Set a policy for capital allocation and establish a growth investment budget to achieve discontinuous growth
- Opinions, requests, and concerns obtained through dialogue with shareholders and investors are regularly reported and shared not only to management but also to all employees through internal webinars to further improve corporate value.

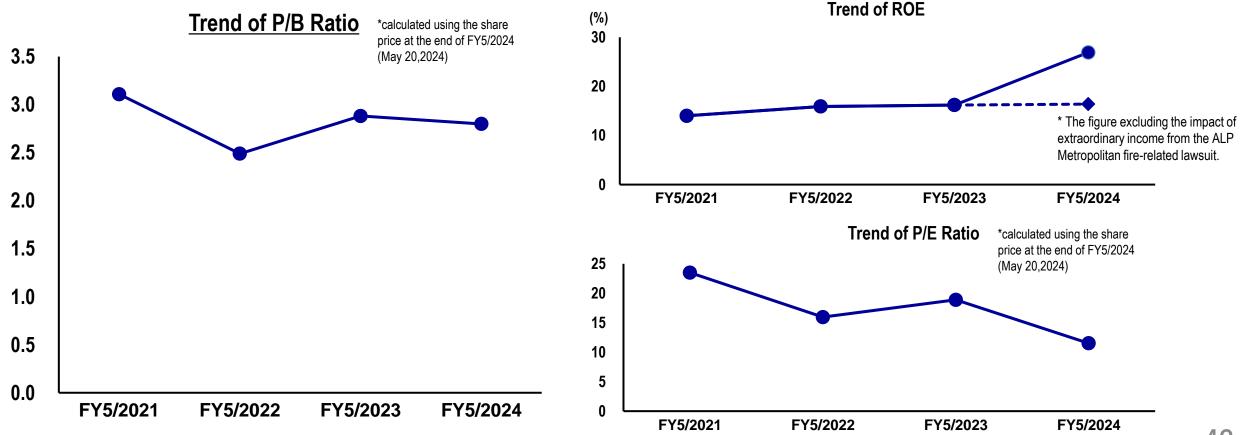
## **Current Recognition of Price-to-Book Ratio**

Consolidated

- ✓ The Price-to-Book (P/B) ratio has been stably maintained at a level significantly above 1
- $\checkmark$  The ROE is around 15%, and the Price-to-Earnings (P/E) ratio is around 20

\*FY5/2024 affected by one-time extraordinary income







Aiming to maximize corporate value, improve capital efficiency, and enhance shareholder returns by balancing growth investments (offensive) and financial discipline (defensive).

Indicators and Guidelines for Financial Discipline (Premises of Capital Allocation)			FY5/2021	FY5/2022	FY5/2023	FY5/2024	Approach
Financial Leverag		3.0	3.23	3.31	3.55	3.11	Prioritize Maintaining a Sound Financial Structure
Stability	D/E Ratio *2	1.0	0.48	0.44	0.64	0.46	Financial discipline during large-scale fundraising
Capital Efficiency	ROE *3	20.0%	14.0%	15.9%	16.2%	26.9% * <sup>5</sup>	<ul> <li>Aiming for the efficient use of shareholder equity</li> <li>✓ Maintain financial leverage levels</li> <li>✓ Control total assets, including inventory, at appropriate levels</li> <li>✓ Further improve profitability</li> </ul>
Shareholder Returns	Total Return Ratio *4	45.0%	32.3%	122.1%	33.9%	27.4% *6	Ensure stable shareholder dividends and systematically acquire treasury stock

\*2 D/E Ratio: Interest-bearing liabilities divided by Shareholders' Equity

\*4 Total Return Ratio: (Total dividends paid + total acquisition cost of treasury stock up to the end of the fiscal year) divided by net profit

Calculation Method

\*1 Financial Leverage: Total Assets divided by Shareholders' Equity

\*3 ROE: Net Profit divided by Average of equity at the beginning and end of the period

\*5 Affected by the impact of extraordinary income from the ALP Metropolitan fire-related lawsuit.

\*6 Calculated using the 1.7 billion yen that was acquired during FY5/2024 out of the acquisition of treasury stock that was resolved in March 2024 (with an upper limit of 4.5 billion).



Based on the recognition that dialogue with shareholders and investors is important in aiming for sustainable growth, opinions, requests, and concerns obtained through dialogue with shareholders and investors are regularly reported and shared not only to management but also to all employees through internal webinars, in order to further improve corporate value.

Activity	FY5/2021 Results	FY5/2022 Results	FY5/2023 Results	FY5/2024 Results
Financial briefing for analysts and institutional investors	4	4	4	4
Small meetings for analysts and institutional investors	12	12	13	12
Individual meeting with analysts and institutional investors	289	290	248	246
Distribution center tour for analysts and institutional investors (including small-group tour)	1	1	1	1
Individual meetings with independent directors and analysts/institutional investors				1

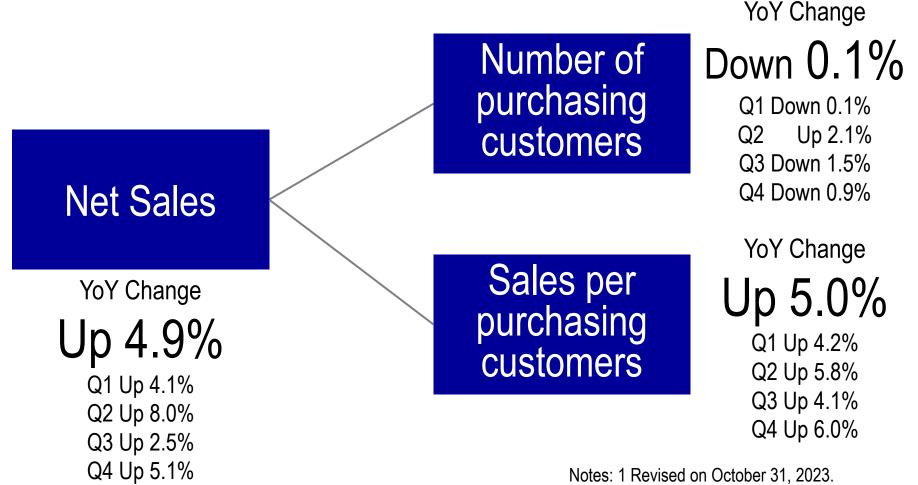
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# **VII** Appendix

## ASKUL FY5/2024 Factors for Increase in Net Sales



The promotion of bulk purchase in line with the revision of the free shipping threshold<sup>\*1</sup> led to an increase in sales per purchasing customers and a decrease in number of purchasing customers (the number of unique customers increased by 1.2% compared to the previous year)



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2 Above figures are not adjusted to number of business days. **46** 

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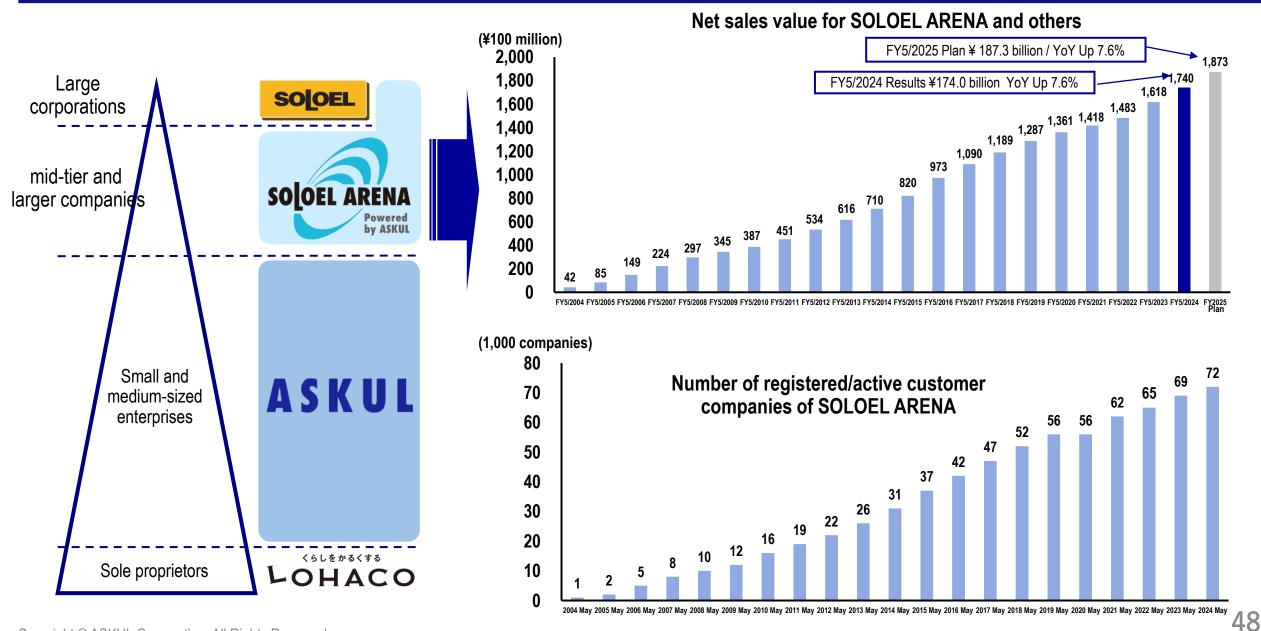
# FY5/2024 Net Sales by Item Category



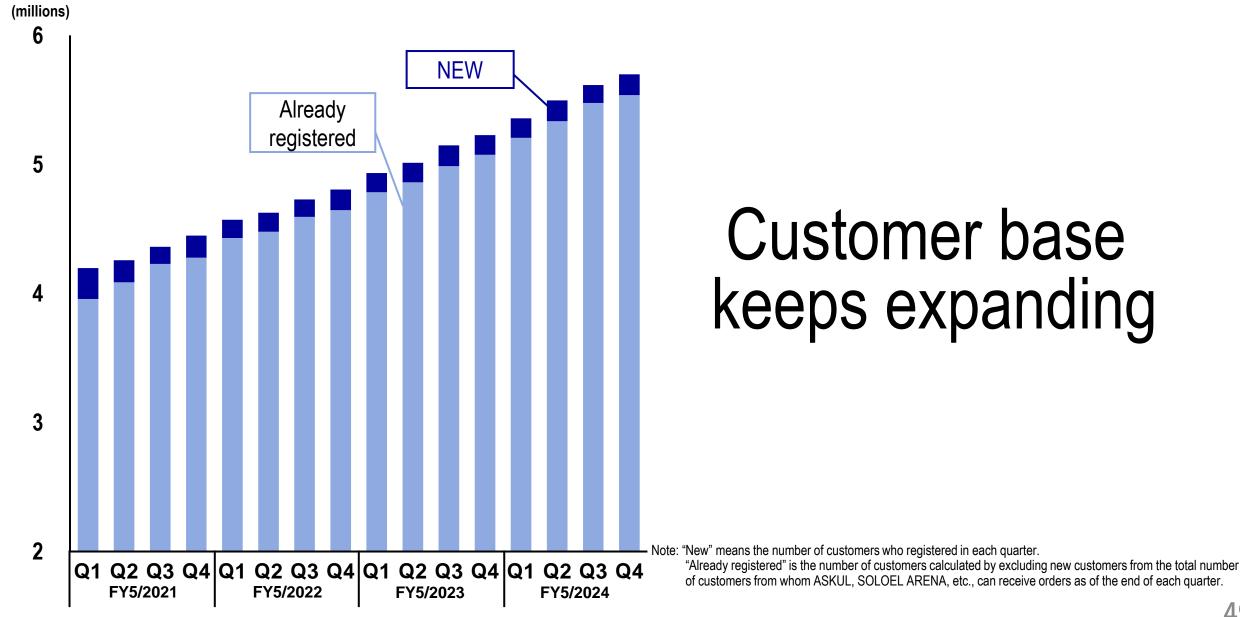
	FY	5/2023 Full-	year		FY5/2024	Full-year	
(¥billion)		Composition ratio %	YoY change %		Composition ratio %	YoY change	YoY change %
OA & PC	100.1	26.1	+4.2	104.8	26.9	4.7	+4.7
Stationery	42.8	11.2	+2.6	45.9	11.8	3.1	+7.3
Living Supplies	139.4	36.4	+4.6	138.4	35.5	(1.0)	-0.7
Furniture	20.4	5.3	-8.1	22.9	5.9	2.4	+12.1
MRO	42.0	11.0	+9.3	44.1	11.3	2.0	+4.8
Medical	32.0	8.4	-4.8	24.5	6.3	(7.5)	-23.4
Others	6.0	1.6	-1.6	8.7	2.2	2.7	+45.1
Total	383.0	100.0	+3.1	389.6	100.0	6.5	+1.7

## ASKUL Results of SOLOEL ARENA and others





## **ASKUL** Number of Registered Customers\*



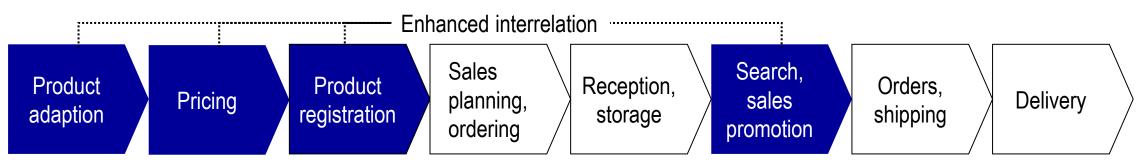


# ASKUL Fundamental Improvement Measures for Sales Growth



From [Financial Results for the Third Quarter of the Fiscal Year Ending May 20, 2024 ] presentation material

# Strongly promote merchandising digital transformation (DX)



Expanding the scope of data and AI applications will enable;

- ✓ prompt adoption of products in line with customers' needs
- $\checkmark$  flexible automatic pricing according to market conditions
- enhance product information that contributes to SEO and conversions
- $\checkmark$  optimization of search algorithm

## Achieve sales growth by improving utilization ratio of newly introduced products

(Furthermore, focus on strengthening product development capabilities and cost reductions with the resources created by DX)

# FY5/2024 Gross Profit and SG&A Expenses



**Gross profit:** ¥ 117.5 billion YoY change: Up ¥ 10.4 billion Gross profit margin: 24.9% YoY change: Up 0.9 points

 $\checkmark$  Due to flexible price revisions and recovery of foreign exchange position, etc.

SG&A expenses: ¥ 100.5 billion YoY change: Up ¥ 8.1 billion

Ratio of SG&A expenses to net sales 21.3%: YoY change: Up 0.6 points

Item	FY5/2	023	FY5/2024			
ILEITI	Amount (million yen)	Ratio to Sales (%)	Amount (million yen)	Ratio to Sales (%)	YoY Change (%)	
Personnel expenses	22,712	5.1	25,381	5.4	111.7	
Shipment expenses	21,843	4.9	21,611	4.6	98.9	
Subcontract expenses	4,748	1.1	5,065	1.1	106.7	
Business consignment expenses	11,696	2.6	11,223	2.4	96.0	
Rents	10,835	2.4	11,132	2.4	102.7	
Provision of allowance for doubtful accounts	16	0.0	(27)	(0.0)	—	
Depreciation	3,451	0.8	3,960	0.8	114.8	
Amortization of software	2,739	0.6	4,891	1.0	178.6	
Other expenses	14,375	3.2	17,310	3.6	120.4	
Total	92,420	20.7	100,549	21.3	108.8	

#### Details of Selling, General and Administrative Expense (as shown in Financial Statements)



# Capital expenditures ¥13.4 billion(Annual plan: ¥11.6 billion)

Related to ASKUL Kanto DC ¥5.6 billion Related to AVC Kansai Facility Enhancement ¥2.0 billion

(Reference) Depreciation and amortization of software: ¥8.8 billion (Annual plan: ¥9.3 billion) Investment details (¥ million)

ltem	FY5/2023	FY5/2024			
	Amount	Amount	YoY Change		
[Capital expenditures]	14,634	13,485	-7.8%		
Property, plant and equipment	7,066	8,629	22.1%		
Intangible assets	7,567	4,856	-35.8%		
Construction in progress (Note 2)	825	6,965	743.6%		
Software in progress (Note 2)	11,037	2,340	-78.8%		

Notes: 1. Capital expenditure is stated on an accrual basis.

2. Construction in progress and software in progress above present balances at the end of the quarter under review, and partially include consumption and other taxes.



## Capital expenditures ¥ 18.0 billion (YoY change: Up ¥ 4.6 billion)

<Major breakdown> ASKUL Kanto DC Core System Replacement

¥ 9.7 billion ¥ 2.6 billion

(Reference) Depreciation and amortization of software ¥ 9.4 billion (YoY change: Up ¥ 0.5 billion)



### Ratio of Internet Orders to Net Sales

	FY5/2023	FY5/2024	YoY Change
Orders via the Internet	88.9%	89.2%	+0.3pt
Other	11.1%	10.8%	-0.3pt

Note: Percentages are based on orders placed.

### **ASKUL** Original Products

	May of FY5/2023	May of FY5/2024	YoY Change
Number of original products	14,139 items	17,067 items	+2,928 items
Non-consolidated net sales composition	32.3%	32.3%	-0.0pt
(of which, B-to-B business)	(38.2%)	(38.1%)	(-0.1pt)

- Notes: 1. The number of original products includes those with sales limited to ASKUL.
  - Also, the calculation includes not only those items sold via catalogs but also items sold only via the Internet.
  - 2:The calculation of original products as a percentage of net sales includes original copy paper.
  - 3. From 4Q FY5/2018 onward, the calculation of B-to-B original products as a percentage of net sales uses B-to-B business inventory sales as the denominator.



	Q	1	Q	2	First	half	Q	3	Q	4	Secor	nd half	Full-	year
	Weekdays	Saturdays												
FY5/2025	64	13	62	13	126	26	58	15	58	12	116	27	242	53
FY5/2024	63	13	63	12	126	25	59	15	59	12	118	27	244	52
Difference	+1	0	-1	+1	0	+1	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	-2	+1



## **ASKUL Environmental Policy**

We, the ASKUL Group, are committed to passing on a better global environment to future generations through our business activities as a company that continuously brings delight to our workplace, life, the planet and tomorrow.

### Realizing a Carbon-Neutral Society

#### • 2050 Net Zero

Achieve net zero  $\rm{CO}_2$  emissions across the entire supply chain by 2050

 "2030 CO<sub>2</sub> Zero Challenge" Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> that is emitted by business sites and distribution down to zero by 2030

#### • "RE100"

Raise a group-wide renewable energy utilization ratio to  $100\%\ by\ 2030$ 

Realized 68% as of May 2024

• "EV100"

Replace delivery vehicles owned and used by ASKUL LOGIST 100% with electric vehicles by 2030 As of May 2024, a total of 20 EVs are in operation.

 Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions throughout the Supply Chain

Started with calculation of ASKUL original products using a tool for visualizing  $CO_2$  emissions in the supply chain Working towards achieving SBT Supplier Engagement

### Building a Resource-Recycling Platform

- Reduce disposal of returned products
   Reduce returned products that lead to their disposal
   Remake returned products into salable products

   Sell returned products as "imperfect ones" at a discount
- ASKUL Resource Recycling Platform

ASKUL Recourse Recycling Platform is established and begins operation after Ministry of the Environment's demonstration project. Promoting initiatives that do not throw away resources n cooperation with all entities in the value chain.

In April 2024, 2 wastebasket items made from used clear plastic folders were released as Matakul, an original product series.

- J
- Recycled paper bags "Come bag" An FSC<sup>®</sup> certified\* product made with approx. 15% recycled pulp from ASKUL catalogs as the base paper for the paper bag itself
  - \* The FSC<sup>®</sup> certification system certifies "responsible management of the world's forests" Using FSC<sup>®</sup> certified products leads to forest conservation.

### **Conserving Biodiversity**

#### • "1 box for 2 trees"

Confirm planting of two eucalyptus trees, double the amount of raw materials, by purchasing one box of original copy paper



 Forest Maintenance Partnership Agreement with Tsumagoi Village

In August 2023, ASKUL, TSUMAGOI MEISUI, and Tsumagoi Village signed a Forest Maintenance Partnership Agreement for the purpose of jointly implementing activities to conserve Tsumagoi Village's forest resources. Started local tree-planting in May 2024

### Development and procurement of environment-friendly products

ASKUL Product Environmental Standard

Began to publish on product pages an independent score for the environmental friendliness level of each products. Promoting development of environmentally friendly products while working together with manufacturers and suppliers to improve scores.





# Initiatives for Sustainability (Environment)



57

2024 Participated in "TNFD Forum" Obtained "Net Zero Certification" from SBT

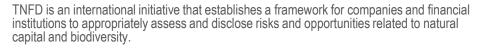
- 2023 Participated in "GX League" Selected as a "Climate Change A List" company by CDP
- 2022 Selected as a "Climate Change A- List" company by CDP
- 2021 Selected as a "Climate Change A List" company by CDP
- 2020 Selected as a "Climate Change A List" company by CDP
- 2019 Announced support for "TCFD recommendations" Selected as a "Climate Change A List" company by CDP
- 2018 Obtained "Eco-First company" and "SBT" Certification
- 2017 Joined RE100 and EV100
- 2016 Signed up for the "United Nations Global Compact" Announced the "2030 CO<sub>2</sub> Zero Challenge"
- 2013 Formulated Medium-Term Environmental Targets
- 2003 Formulated ASKUL Environmental Policy

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The GX League calls on enterprises to actively work for GX; to strive for GX through cooperation in government, academia, and business; and to serve as a forum for discussing the transformation of the entire economic and social system and creating new markets accordingly.

Companies included in "Climate Change A list" are ones selected as the highest rated by the international non-profit environmental organization Carbon Disclosure Project, CDP. If companies are taking excellent actions in response to climate change and disclosure of their information, they will be included in the list



"TCFD recommendations" are international propositions, compiled by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("TCFD"), concerning how corporations should voluntarily disclose information for the purpose of identifying and disclosing the financial impacts of risks and opportunities caused by climate change



"SBT: Science Based Targets" are corporate targets to reduce greenhouse gas. The "Science Based Targets" organization, an international initiative, will approve them as targets that aim at scientifically based levels to achieve the "2°C target Efforts to keep the temperature well below 2°C and bring it below 1.5°C)" set out in the Paris Climate Accord



The "Eco-First Company" is a company recognized by the Minister of the Environment as a company that engages in "advanced, unique and industry-leading business activities" for environmental conservation, such as global warming countermeasures and waste and recycling measures



United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is a voluntary initiative by which companies and organizations act as good members of society and participate in the creation of a global framework that realizes sustainable growth by demonstrating responsible and creative leadership



"RE100" is an international business initiative, participated by companies that publicly aim to operate their business with 100% renewable energy



"EV100" is an international business initiative, participated by companies that publicly aim to replace all their business-purpose vehicles with electric vehicles

## **Initiatives for Sustainability (Society)**



Together with colleagues	Together with customers	Initiatives with business partners	Social contribution activities
<ul> <li>Diversity-oriented management ASKUL's Declaration of Diversity (2015)</li> <li>Utilize diverse human resources Promote female active participation and enhance the ratio of female managers Declared a target of raising the ratio of female managers to 30% by 2025 Participated in 30% Club Japan Participated in Male Leaders Coalition for Empowerment of Women</li> <li>Promote diverse work styles Systems for leave and shorter working hours for childcare Systems for leave and shorter working hours for nursing care</li> <li>Teleworking system: Abolished the limit on the number of times per month for teleworking Flextime system: Eliminated the core time Learning support system to assist proactive learning Secondary work system Club activity system</li> <li>ASKUL LOGIST: Provide free lunches to employees working in logistics, delivery, and headquarters so that they can work in good physical and mental health</li> <li>ASKUL LOGIST Fukuoka Distribution Center's efforts to employ persons with disabilities in cooperation with local communities</li> <li>Legal employment rate of private companies is 2.3%)</li> <li>*Legal employment ratio calculated in units of business sites as of May 20, 202</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cultivating Corporate Culture and Awareness</li> <li>Share customer feedback         <ul> <li>Distribute internally opinions, requests, and             suggestions received from customers to all employees.</li> </ul> </li> <li>VOC (voice of customer) Seminar         <ul> <li>Regularly hold seminars inviting lecturers from other             companies to learn improvement activities based on             customer feedback.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Meeting to listen to customers' feedback         Create opportunities to think and act from the             customer's perspective by listening to audio recordings         of customer service.</li> <li>Improvement Activities Based on Customer         Feedback         <ul> <li>Administration of "Customer Satisfaction             Improvement Committee"             Based on feedback from customers, related divisions             cooperate in implementing service evolution and             quality KPI Improvement Activities         <ul>             PDCA cycle is implemented for the purpose of             "enhancing customer satisfaction by improving the             quality of products and services." Customer feedback             is reported to and shared with management, and             related department heads, and discussions and             improvements are made regarding the evolution of             products and services.</ul></li> </ul> </li> <li>Customer Satisfaction Management Systems     <ul> <li>Declared Conformity to ISO 10002             Declared Conformity to ISO 10002, the international             standard for customer satisfaction management             systems.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Declaration of support and voluntary action for the "White Logistics" promotion campaign A movement to resolve the shortage of truck drivers and work to realize a more employee friendly working environment in which productivity in truck transportation is improved, efficiency in logistics is raised, and certain groups of drivers, such as women and people over the age of 60, will find it easy to work.</li> <li>Sustainable Procurement Policy Formulated in April 2021. The policy considers the environment, safety, human rights, and other issues aimed at striking a balance between the fulfillment of social responsibilities and sustainable development throughout the supply chain to ensure the sustainable provision of safe and reliable products to customers.</li> <li>Supply Chain CSR Survey / Audits Based on Sustainable Procurement Policy, from July to October 2021, conducted a survey regarding the status of efforts of suppliers concerning the six areas: environment; worry-free and safe products; legal compliance and fair trade; human rights; the working environment; and response to risks and changes. In addition, CSR audits of factories of private brand manufacturer begun in April 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Supporting East Japan Reconstruction through Impact Investment and Donations The Group supports projects in three prefectures in the Tohoku region that are intended to solve social problems and revitalize local communities. It does so with the aim of offering cyclical support through donations and impact investing in cooperation with manufacturers. The fifth recipient of the support is local wine brewery Buen Most Co., Ltd, promoting local community, in Shichigahama, Miyagi Prefecture.</li> <li>Project for looking into air and water environments In a joint project with S.T. Corporation, the ASKUL Group donates part of the sales of "S.T. Toilet Deodorant and Deodorant Spray," exclusively sold by ASKUL, to associations that are engaged in improving air and water environments, thereby supporting their activities.</li> <li>Concluded SDGs Collaboration Agreement with City of Tsushima There are many points in common between Tsushima City's SDGs Future City Plan and ASKUL's approach to and direction of resource circulation. Therefore, the SDGs Collaboration Agreement was concluded in February 2021 to promote joint activities that make effective use of the resources and know-how of both sides to achieve the SDGs targets.</li> </ul>
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## Most Significant Strategies in Medium-term Management Plan from FY5/2022 to FY5/2025



From [Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ended May 2023 ] presentation material

# Medium-Term Growth Scenario

(From "From FY5/2022 to FY5/2025 Medium-Term Management Plan" announced in July 2021

### Establishment of the most powerful B-to-B EC website

Strategic industries and expansion of product assortments

### Synergies with Z Holdings Group

Reform of the platform

FY5/2021 F

FY5/2022 FY5/2023

FY5/2024

24 FY5/2025

## 1. Establishment of the most powerful B-to-B EC website

The two EC websites, ASKUL for small and medium-size businesses and SOLOEL ARENA for midlevel and large corporations, are integrated into one. Aim to become the most powerful B-to-B EC website by not only combining the features of the two sites but also deploying the function to respond to the need from teleworking. In this way, increase the frequency of customers' purchasing and the purchase amount per customer and enhance the customer retention rate by consolidating purchases.

### 2. Strategic industries and expansion of product assortments

Expand product lineups centered on specialized products for customers in the two major industries of medical and nursing care, and manufacturing. The plan to double the number of items handled (18 million), quadruple in-stock products (330,000) and increase original products by 1.4 times (12,000), compared with those in May 2021. The two measures of the launch of the new ASKUL website and expansion of product assortments will drive double-digit B-to-B growth for FY5/2025.

## 3. Synergies with Z Holdings Group

The Group will further concentrate its resources on its strengths of products, logistics and CRM by fully utilizing the infrastructure of Z Holdings in terms of attracting customers, site platform and payment systems. Strengthen cooperation with the Z Holdings Group to achieve regrowth after turning profitable. "Yahoo! mart by ASKUL," a joint fast delivery business with the Z Holdings Group, was launched in January 2022.

\* Z Holdings Corporation reorganized the group on October 1, 2023, merged with Yahoo Japan Corporation, LINE Corporation, and other companies, and changed the corporate name to LY Corporation

### 4. Reform of the platform

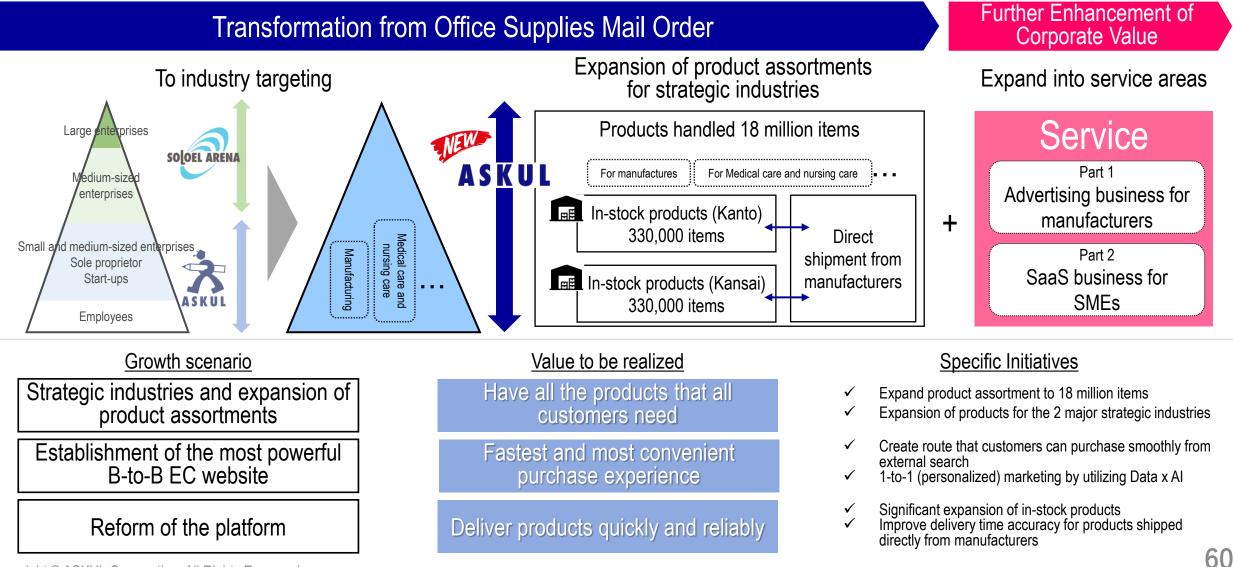
The plan to evolve the high-speed logistics, which is ASKUL's strength, then realize "Delivering Tomorrow" for long-tail products through measures, such as structural reform of distribution centers, integration of B-to-B and B-to-C logistics, and application of DX to value chains. "ASKUL Tokyo DC," the most advanced core center in eastern Japan, which will play an important role in realizing this plan, has begun operating in November 2022.

## **B-to-B Medium-to Long-Term Growth Vision**

Non-Consolidated

From [Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ended May 2023 ] presentation material

Achievement Medium-Term Management Plan is a milestone and further enhance corporate value



## Glossary



B-to-B	B-to-B stands for business to business and indicates transactions between companies
B-to-C	B-to-C represents business to consumer (customer) and refers to transactions between companies and consumers
MRO	MRO stands for Maintenance, Repair and Operations, and primarily refers to materials that serve as secondary materials (indirect materials), which used in the frontline operations of factories, construction sites, and other locations
ASKUL	Name of the internet mail-order service (accepts orders via facsimile) for small and medium-sized enterprises
SOLOEL ARENA	Name of the internet mail-order service for mid-tier and larger companies
LOHACO	Name of the internet mail-order service for general consumers launched in October 2012 in partnership with Yahoo Japan Corporation (currently LY Corporation)
New ASKUL Website	A new e-commerce site that integrates two sites; ASKUL for small and medium-sized enterprises, SOLOEL ARENA for mid-tier and larger companies. Full-scale operation started in July 2023, with SOLOEL ARENA customers gradually transitioning to the new ASKUL website over a period of approximately one year
Advertising Business	Service for manufacturers to place advertisements on our e-commerce site, etc.
Distribution center abbreviations	ASKUL Logi PARK as ALP, ASKUL Value Center as AVC, Demand Management Center as DMC, Demand Chain Management as DCM, ASKUL Tokyo DC, and ASKUL Kanto Distribution Center as ASKUL Kanto DC



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